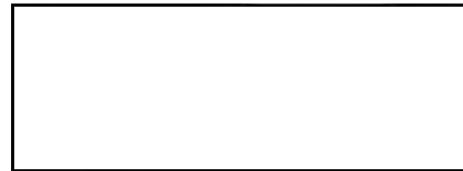


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BURMA: Rangoon is showing signs of greater responsiveness to international concern over the illicit narcotics trade.

A Burmese diplomat recently told a US official that he had received word from Rangoon that "we are going to cooperate more." He said a decision to this effect would be communicated to the US Ambassador in Rangoon. Although no such word has yet been received, the US Embassy in Rangoon comments that recent developments point to a major Burmese Government decision on the subject. In possibly related moves, Burmese authorities have curtailed traffic across the Thai-Burmese border at the main entry point for opium into North Thailand and have placed the headquarters of the principal traffickers under surveillance. The last two commanders of the Burmese military region that embraces the main poppy-growing area have been replaced because of their protection of illicit opium trade.

Burma's Shan State is the source of a large portion of the opium entering the Southeast Asian market, and Rangoon's reluctance to join in international suppression efforts has been a considerable hindrance in stemming the flow. Burma's attitude derives from its rigid policy of nonalignment, which precludes significant international cooperation, but also reflects Rangoon's embarrassment over a lack of authority in the opium-growing areas where Communist and tribal insurgents are active.

Although Rangoon may be preparing for renewed unilateral efforts to clamp down on the narcotics trade, any move toward joint suppression efforts still appears unlikely.

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YEMEN (SANA) - YEMEN (ADEN): Some fighting reportedly has continued in Yemen (Aden), where the government claimed yesterday that regular army troops from Yemen (Sana), using armor and heavy artillery, had resumed attacks on Adeni positions. The action is said to have taken place near Ad Dhali, about 65 miles from the city of Aden. There is no confirmation of participation by troops from Yemen (Sana) in this fighting. [redacted]

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Meanwhile, a five-member contingent from the Arab League is in Sana, apparently having little success in persuading the two Yemens to end the hostilities that broke out in mid-September. [redacted]

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